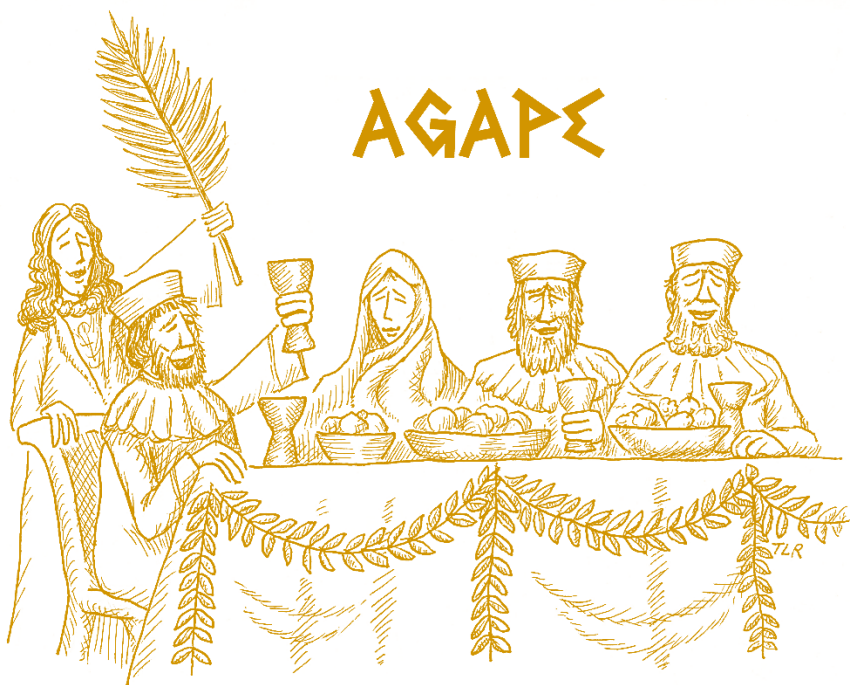


Heaven is a Feast!

ΑΓΑΠΕ



“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”—Revelation 19:9 (NASB)

Valley Grace Brethren Church of Armagh, PA
April 16th, AD 2023

The LORD'S Day

The Sixteenth Day of April, *in the Year of our Lord 2023*

Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!



Sunday School—9:30 AM.

Question: *“When a school shooting, or some other horrid event takes place, is this in accordance with the WILL of God?”* The inability of many believers to apprehend the multi-faceted aspects of the **WILL OF GOD** has led to much doctrinal confusion within the ranks of God’s Church over the years—especially concerning the doctrine of Election.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *“Praise God from Whom all Blessings”* (#554)

Invocation.*

Hymn: *“Springs of Living Water”* (#244).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 12:12-25.

Prayer, Praises, and Testimony.

Special Music: Anna Mason & Peggy Reese (*“Morning Has Broken”*).

Announcements.

Hymn: *“Sweet By and By”* (#518).

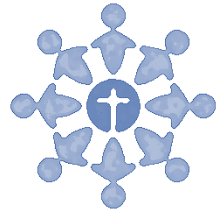
Dismissal of Youth for Children’s Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *“WILL WE KNOW EACH OTHER IN HEAVEN?”*

Closing Hymn:* *“When We All Get to Heaven”* (#533).

Benediction.*



The Congregation will please arise, if able.



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Downloadable audio mp3 messages at [archive.org](https://archive.org/@reesetpje) (@reesetpje)

Also check out our YouTube Channel (search "Terry Reese")!

Week of April 9 – April 15



Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—35;

Midweek—5; Weekly Offering—\$1,217.⁰⁰

Egg Hunt & CEF Program—29 Total (11 Children)

Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study—6:30 PM

Join us to unleash the mighty power of prayer! We continue with the thrilling narrative of Daniel 5!



BIBLE CONFERENCE



On **May 13**, Pastor Reese is serving as Moderator at the **Allegheny Conservative Grace Brethren Conference** at Camp Albryoca, Greenville Twp., near Meyersdale, PA; **Pastor**

Tom Johnson of the Somerset GBC will be serving as Vice Moderator. Both Pastor Johnson and **Pastor Chris Knight** of the Listie GBC will be providing **special music**. Pastor Reese's chosen Conference Theme concerns the matter of **Biblical Authority**, which will be considered both in terms of doctrinal conviction and in terms of personal lifestyle/application. There is a genuine crisis in today's breezy and pragmatic evangelical culture, in that more-and-more, our people are not only Biblically and doctrinally *uninformed*, but increasingly *indifferent* to their Biblical illiteracy! In today's climate, "*feel-ology*" (i.e., "*what I feel*") clearly trumps *theology* (i.e., what God actually *teaches* in His Word). There will be special breakout sessions for both the men & the ladies, and lunch is provided. **Everyone is welcome**—let us know if you plan to attend! We will be happy to provide transportation.

Cover illustration: "*The Great Banquet*" by Pastor Terry L. Reese

Common Question: "Will we KNOW Each Other in Heaven?"

(Pastor Terry L. Reese; Valley GBC, Armagh, PA; 4/13/23)

Q: "Can we point to a simple, single verse that starkly and directly affirms this?"

A: This is not a matter of a simple or direct "proof text." The Bible's central focus when dealing with Heaven is *Theocentric* (i.e., God-centered), as opposed to *Anthropocentric* (i.e., Man-centered). Its main focus is thus upon God's Glorious Throne and the consummation of His Eternal Plan, rather than upon man's future living arrangements and social activities.

Q: "CAN a reasonable, Biblical case be made, then, in favor of our knowing our friends and loved ones in Heaven?"

A: YES! Such a case is based upon *indirect & inferential* data and evidence—but nonetheless, it is both *compelling & substantial!*

I. Some important PRELIMINARY Observations...

A. God's Heaven will be JOYFUL—and will NOT bring us any disappointment or pain! (Rev. 21:4)

B. In our glorified and perfected state, we will know MORE—not LESS—than what we do now! (1 Cor. 13:12)

C. Heaven is SOCIAL in nature—a great place of **Fellowship!**

i. Heaven is often depicted as a **great feast or banquet** (e.g., Matt. 8:11, 22:2, 25:10; Rev. 19:9).

ii. Heaven is depicted as a great & enormous **CITY** (Rev. 21:16).

iii. The Holy Ordinance of the **Love Feast** pictures our future heavenly communion (or fellowship) with one another.

iv. **Question:** "*How can we, as glorified saints, genuinely exist as social beings—enjoying communion and fellowship with other people—and yet, not even personally **know & recognize** them?*"

II. Some specific Biblical case-studies that relate to this matter:

1. **King David and his son** who died in infancy (2 Sam. 12:23).
2. **Abraham, Isaac, & Jacob:** identifiable personalities (Matt. 8:11).
3. **Lazarus, the Rich Man, and Abraham** (Luke 16:19-31).
4. **Samuel, Saul, and the Witch of Endor** (1 Samuel 28:8-17).
5. **Moses & Elijah** at the **Mount of Transfiguration** (Matt. 17:1-13).
6. **Jesus' Promise** unto His disciples at the Last Supper (Mt. 26:29).
7. The Model of the **Glorified Christ** (Lk 24:31; Jn 20:16, 21:7, 12; 1 Cor. 15:4-8).
8. **Paul's word of comfort** unto the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
9. **Paul's expectation** of seeing his converts in Heaven (1 Thess. 2:19-20).
10. The **identifiable names** of the Elect are enrolled (Hb. 12:23; Rv. 3:5).